

MARY CHESEBRO LEE  
DETACHED TENT #23[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wimclduv/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wimclduv/)<https://www.facebook.com/duvcwmarylee>**BUTTER BRAIDS  
FUNDRAISER  
A HUGE SUCCESS!**

Congratulations, everyone!  
We raised \$639.60! Many  
thanks go to Shirley Peterson  
for organizing this fundraiser  
and to everyone who  
participated. The Butter  
Braids were delivered at our  
November meeting, just in  
time for the holidays.  
Enjoy!

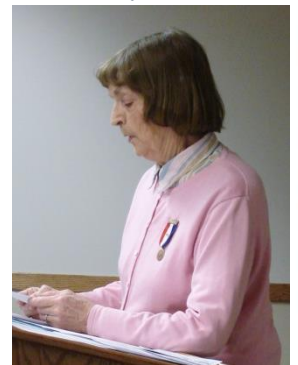
**WALWORTH COUNTY CIVILIANS IN THE WAR**

Patriotic Instructor Barbara Shreves gave a presentation on civilians in Walworth County in the Civil War, especially the women. The information was from a thesis written by Patrick J. Schiefelbein in 1992, who had gathered articles from local papers written during the Civil War.

The county had been settled by many Easterners abolitionists who were very willing to fight for the Union. An article in the Elkhorn Independent written in April 1861 describes the excitement of the county residents "burning with patriotism". That year women held meetings to discuss relief work and one of the first Womens Aid Societies in the state was started in Walworth County. A Former Soldiers Aid Society was started in Elkhorn, and farmers were encouraged to donate food, yarn, pillows, flannel, dried fruits, and other goods for the soldiers at war. A weekly column was dedicated to soldiers' relief with a list of needed items. In March of 1863 Whitewater and Sun Prairie women responded to reports of scurvy by sending fresh fruits and vegetables to the front lines.

By the fall of 1863 Wisconsin women were leading the states in the amount of contributions made. Delavan sent 50 large boxes to the Milwaukee branch of the aid society as well as to its own. The Elkhorn Ladies Soldiers Aid Society worked at the fairgrounds baking pies and rolls. They also held oyster dinners and strawberry festivals as fundraisers.

Some local women took even more active roles in the war. Delavan's Catherine Bissell went to Arkansas to assist chaplains. Mary Chesebro Lee worked as a nurse in Louisville, KY. A Jan. 10, 1864 article in the Elkhorn Independent titles "A Scene in the Hospital" describes a discouraged and sick soldier who when approached by a lady nurse admitted he had chronic diarrhea and had given up. She nursed him back to health with porridge with pepper and got him through his homesickness. That nurse was Mrs. Lee.

**FRATERNITY, CHARITY, LOYALTY**

The next meeting of Detached Tent #23  
will be held at 1:30pm on December 17, 2013  
at the Delavan Community Centre.

Refreshments will be provided by Pam Johnson and Pat Blackmer



## "SANTA CLAUS IN CAMP" PRINT BY THOMAS NAST



This is the first published picture of Santa Claus by Thomas Nast, who is generally credited with creating the image of Santa Claus that we know and love today. Published in Harper's Weekly on January 3, 1863, it shows Santa at a Civil War camp handing out gifts and toys to soldiers and children, including socks, which would be much appreciated by the soldiers. It is hard to see without zooming in on the picture, but if you look closely Santa is holding a dancing puppet of Jefferson Davis with the string tied around his neck (appearing to be lynched) instead of coming out of the top of his head.

Although Santa has a patriotic outfit of striped pants and a shirt with stars on it instead of the red suit we see him in today, his long white beard, and furry hat and collar are the same. He is also on a sleigh pulled by reindeer.

A Gallery of the Civil War works of Thomas Nast can be seen at the Son of the South website listed below. Original, 140 year old leafs of Thomas Nast's Civil War work are available for a price of \$250 each. Please contact [paul@sonofthesouth.net](mailto:paul@sonofthesouth.net) if you are interested in acquiring one of these original leafs.

*(Image and information in this article and below reprinted by permission from Son of the South [http://www.sonofthesouth.net/Original\\_Santa\\_Claus.htm](http://www.sonofthesouth.net/Original_Santa_Claus.htm))*



"Thomas Nast was responsible for creating the popular American icons of the Republican Elephant, the Democratic Donkey, Uncle Sam, Santa Claus, and Columbia. His artwork played an instrumental role in securing Abraham Lincoln's second election to the presidency, in the election of Ulysses S. Grant, and in the downfall of the corrupt political machine of Boss Tweed and Tammany Hall."



At our November meeting, our Tent signed holiday cards to be sent to soldiers overseas, to our "Naval Nephews", and to the homeless veterans in Janesville. We also assembled festive packets of holiday candy for our "Naval Nephews" and the homeless veterans.





"The base of the monument is inscribed with the following:

"Rock County 1901

Dedicated to the memory of  
her soldiers and sailors  
war of the rebellion  
1861-1865"

"A moustached, uniformed Civil War soldier stands at parade rest with both hands on the barrel of his rifle, the butt of which rests by his feet. He wears a visored cap, and a short cape over a knee-length coat."

(text from:

[http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WM2D8H\\_War\\_of\\_the\\_Rebellion\\_Monument\\_Janesville\\_WI](http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WM2D8H_War_of_the_Rebellion_Monument_Janesville_WI)

photo from:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/courthouselover/4891578033/>)

## JANESVILLE'S CIVIL WAR MONUMENT

"As far back as 1871, just six years after the end of the Civil War, the Janesville Gazette revealed that the county was abundantly able to afford a monument to its veterans of the Civil War. But it wasn't until 1900 that a public referendum was held, and a monument approved by the people of the county. By 1900, the county was reaching a substantial population. It was up to 50,000, with Janesville accounting for 13,000 and Beloit 10,000.

"In December of 1900, a motion was made at the County Board to proceed with the plans for a Civil War monument with the cost not to exceed \$10,000. A company in Rockford called "The Hutchins and Rundle" submitted the approved plan for the design of the monument. The cost of the monument, together with the cost of erection was \$8,400. Then bids for the erection were received from many companies around the country, one as far away as Buffalo N.Y. The winning bid was from A.S. Jackson of Beloit.

"...In erecting the monument, excavators had to go down 12 feet into the ground to find a solid base because of the tremendous size of the monument. It is 56'-2" tall and weighs 151 tons.

"The dedication in 1902 coincided with the annual reunion of the Rock County Soldier and Sailor's Union. It took place on August 28, 1902... The reunion was at a very appropriate time for the dedication, because there were many, many Civil War veterans in attendance. The day's activities included a parade which was led by a drum and fife corps. Another activity was an old army dinner held in the courthouse park. The Janesville Gazette reported that it was a sight to see the "grey-haired old men" enjoy the old army dinner. Now it should be noted that most of these men were between 60 and 65 years of age, many even under the age of 60. The dedication itself included singing, reciting of poetry and speeches. That evening another banquet was held with the Women's Relief Corps serving.

"The memorial stands as a fitting tribute to those that fought to reunite the country, and is one that should last well into the next century." (from A Guide to Monuments and Historical Markers in Janesville by Dale R. Dolphins 1987, pp. 9-11)

## Christmas Carols

"Did you know that many of the songs we sing during this joyous occasion had originally been written during the darkest time of our nation's history? Indeed, one could argue that some Christmas carols are actually the forerunners of the modern day protest song, as some carols penned in this time were actually thinly veiled commentary on the war. "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear," written by minister Edmund Sears, touches upon the desire for peace during this time, while Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" contains strong anti-war sentiment. Of course, one likely doesn't sense this because the more blatant verses of Longfellow's poem are omitted in the traditional carol we sing today. By contrast, Phillips Brooks' "O Little Town of Bethlehem" touches on the hope for peace in the aftermath of conflict." (Article Source: <http://EzineArticles.com/364192>)

